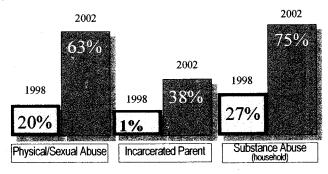




Big Brothers Big Sisters is the **ONLY** Best Practice prevention program in **Mon**tana proven to impact a broad spectrum of risk factors (i.e. delinquency, alcohol, tobacco and drug use, teen pregnancy, school drop out) while simultaneously helping children reach their highest potential. As such, the return on investment is higher across the board than dollars invested in single issue prevention programs.

Serving Montana's Highest Needs Children

In recent years, Big Brothers Big Sisters has assumed a larger burden of serving higher risk children as funding cuts to other federal and state program take effect. Since the late 1990's, BBBS has seen dramatic changes in the population of children we serve:



After 40 years of one-to-one mentoring service in Montana, and over 100 years nationwide, BBBS knows that putting a supportive adult in the lives of at risk children is the surest way to prevent involvement in problem behaviors. As the methamphetamine problem in Montana grows, with 65% of people in prison for drug related crime, BBBS continues to expand their proven mentoring services and develop specialized programs to reach out to these very high-risk children.

By partnering with local law enforcement, schools, youth courts, drug courts and other agencies across the state, BBBS is able to identify high-risk children and do what BBBS does best—recruit and provide specialized training and individual, ongoing support for volunteers who serve as mentors and friends to these children.

At a Glance

Children Served 2006: 3,000

Schools Served:
Communities Served:

68

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Montana Agencies

BBBS of Butte

BBBS of Flathead County

BBBS of Gallatin County

BBBS of Great Falls

BBBS of Helena

BBBS of Lake County/Flathead Res.

BBBS of Missoula

BBBS of Park & Sweet Grass Co.

BBBS of Yellowstone County

A Best Practice with Proven Results

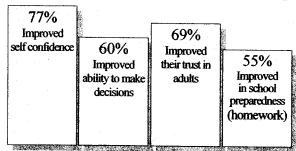
BBBS is a <u>best practice approach</u> to prevention which means it has been scientifically evaluated and proven effective. A study conducted by Public/Private Ventures determined that compared to their peers, children and young adolescents matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister are:

- 46% Less likely than their peers to begin using drugs
- 27% Less likely to begin drinking
- 55% Less likely to skip school
- 33% Less likely to have violent confrontations.

Results for Montana Kids

In 2005 46% of children mentored in Montana by BBBS volunteers increased their grade point average and 65% improved school attendance.

Community Mentoring Program 1 year: (as reported by parents)



School Based Mentoring - 1 year: (as reported by teachers)

| 61% Improved academic performance 65% Improved attitude toward school | 75% Improved class participation | 62% Improved classroom behavior |
|--|---|--|
|--|---|--|

Big Brothers Big Sisters is Cost Effective

| Annual Cost / Child/Year | Program | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| \$105,744 | Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch | |
| \$115,183 | Riverside Youth Correctional Facility | |
| \$78,125 | Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility | |
| \$14,235avg. | Therapeutic Group Homes for Youth | |
| \$21,900avg. | Group Home Shelter Care for Youth | |
| \$27,696 | Montana Women's Prison | |
| \$29,178 avg. | Montana State Prison Average | |
| \$6,866 | Family Foster Care for Youth | |
| \$880 | Big Brothers Big Sisters | |

2006 Figures from Montana DPHHS, Depart. of Justice, Corrections, & Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch

Programming That Meets Needs

A sampling of one-to one mentoring programs BBBS operates across the state reaching out to it's highest risk children include:

- •Mentoring Children of Prisoners: All agencies reach out to children with parents in prison. Additionally, the Missoula BBBS agency has developed a model program designed to mentor children of incarcerated parents, which has been recognized nationally as effective in serving this high-risk group of children.
- •Connections to a Meth-free Future: Provides one-toone mentoring for children at highest risk of meth involvement, including siblings of meth users, and children committing pre-cursor crimes.
- •Mentoring Children in Foster Care System: Partnerships with Montana state and local Child and Family Services statewide to provide mentor services for children in foster care, those families receiving in-home services, and/or at risk of becoming involved in the system.
- •School-based Mentoring: By mentoring children referred by their teachers we are able to reach those whose parents are too overwhelmed or uninvolved to enroll them in a community-based program. Additionally, statistics show that these children return to the classroom better prepared to learn, more confident, and have improved attendance and academic achievement. Teachers tell us that EVERY child in the classroom benefits when some children are mentored since more time is spent teaching and less time spent on behavioral issues.

Where does the money go?

Matches across Montana cost an average of 15% less than the national average of \$1000 per match

Approximately \$880 per match per year for:

- Recruitment
- Volunteer Enrollment: interview, background checks, references, home assessment
- Child Enrollment—parent & child interview and assessment
- Orientation and Training
- Match Support—ongoing coaching by professional Case Managers
- Outcome Evaluation